

REMARKS

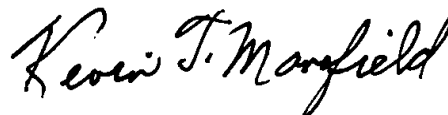
Claims 1-25 and 31-39 are pending. Claims 6-7,10-12, 14-17, 19, 21-22, 24-26 and 32 have been amended by replacement. Said claims have been amended to reduce filing fees by reducing the number of independent claims and eliminating multiple dependency, and to provide minor clarification by eliminating multiple ranges. No other claims have been amended. Claims 33-39 have been added.

Another version of the amended claims, showing the changes relative to the previous version, is appended. Additions are shown by underlining. Deletions are shown by strikethrough rather than bracketing since the claims may contain bracketing that is to remain.

Newly added claims 33-39 are supported by originally filed claims 26-30 and the disclosure from page 9, last paragraph through page 15, third paragraph. No new matter has been added.

Applicants aver that the claims are now in proper form for examination. An Action on the merits of the claims is respectfully awaited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked-up Version of Amended Claims

6. **(amend d)** A compound according to ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 5~~ in which the amino acid from which each amino acid residue R_1 is derived is aspartic acid or iminodiacetic acid.

7. **(amended)** A compound according to claims 1 ~~or 2~~ in which R_1 is a linear C_1 - C_4 -alkylene residue which is unsubstituted or substituted by hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -hydroxy- or alkoxy-alkoxy, -OCOM, -OCOC $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, and M being is as previously defined in claim 1.

10. **(amended)** A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 9~~ in which the group R_2 represents a linear C_1 - C_4 -alkylene residue which is unsubstituted or substituted by hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -hydroxy or alkoxyalkoxy, -OCOM, -OCOC $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, -CO $_2$ M, -CO $_2$ C $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, SO $_3$ M, phenoxy which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, -CO $_2$ M or -CO $_2$ C $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, NH $_2$ or mono- or disubstituted amino and M is as defined in claim 1.

11. **(amended)** A compound according to claim 10 in which the group R_2 represents a methylene, ethylene or propylene residue which is substituted by hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -hydroxy- or alkoxy-alkoxy, -OCOM, -OCOC $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, -CO $_2$ M, -CO $_2$ C $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, SO $_3$ M or di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylamino, ~~whereby M is as defined in claim 1.~~

12. **(amended)** A compound according to claims 10 ~~or 11~~ in which R_2 is hydroxyethyl, hydroxypropyl, ethoxyethyl, hydroxyethoxyethyl, methoxyethoxyethyl, an acetic or propionic acid residue or methyl or ethyl esters thereof, an ethyl or methyl acetate, dimethylaminoethyl or ethyl sulphonic acid or the sodium salt thereof.

14. **(amended)** A compound according to claims 1 ~~or 2~~ in which each R_2 is phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by 1 to 3 SO $_3$ M, SO $_2$ NHC $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, -SO $_2$ NH $_2$, -CO $_2$ M, -CO $_2$ C $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, -CONH $_2$, -CONHC $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl, -NHCOC $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl or mono- or disubstituted amino groups, wherein M is as defined in claim 1.

15. **(amended)** A compound according to claims 14 in which each R_2 is phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one SO $_3$ M, -SO $_2$ NH $_2$ or -NHCOC $_1$ - C_4 -alkyl group.

16. **(amended)** A compound according to claims 14 ~~or 15~~ in which each R_2 is phenyl.

17 **(amended)** A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1~~ in which R₃ represents hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, halogen, cyano, SO₃M, -SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHC₁-C₄-alkyl, -CO₂M, -CO₂C₁-C₄-alkyl, -CONH₂, -CONHC₁-C₄-alkyl, or -NHCOC₁-C₄-alkyl, M being defined as in claim 1 and m is 1.

19. **(amended)** A compound according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1~~ in which M is hydrogen, Na, K, Ca, Mg, ammonium, mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-C₁-C₄alkylammonium, mono-, di- or tri-C₁-C₄-hydroxy-alkylammonium or ammonium that is di- or tri-substituted with a mixture of C₁-C₄-alkyl and C₁-C₄-hydroxyalkyl groups.

21. **(amended)** A compound of formula 1 according to claim 1 in which:

R₁ is an amino acid residue derived from aspartic acid or iminodiacetic acid,

R₂ is hydroxyethyl,

R₃ is hydrogen and

M is sodium.

22. **(amended)** A compound of formula 1 according to claim 1 in which:

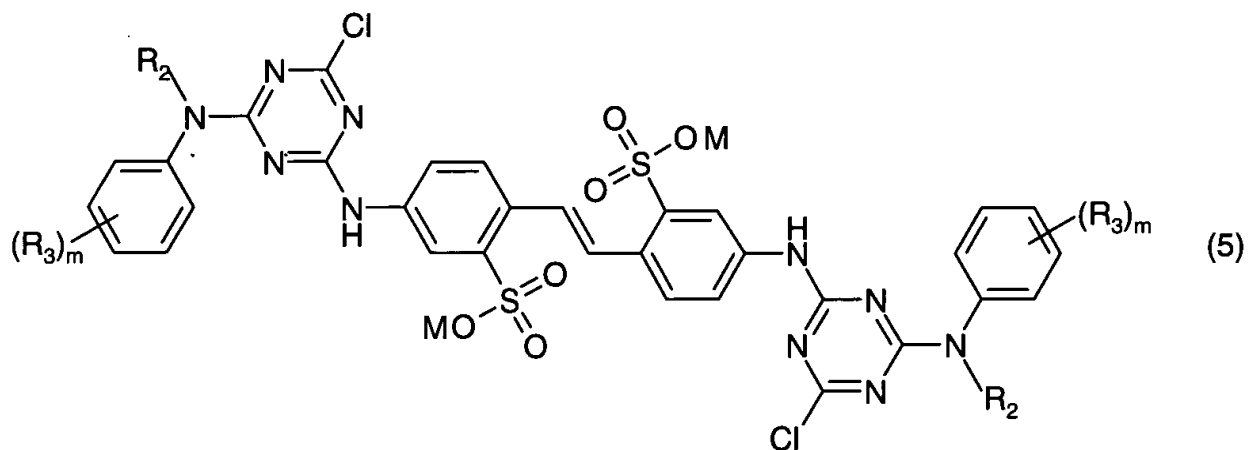
R₁ is a 2-methoxyethylamino residue,

R₂ is a sodium acetate residue,

R₃ is hydrogen and

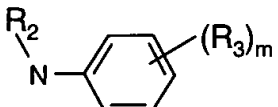
M is sodium.

24. **(amended)** A process Use of the compound of formula (5) of claim 23 for the preparation of a compound of the formula (1) according to claim 1, which comprises reacting the compound of formula



with a compound capable of introducing a group R_1 in place of X, in which R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , M and m are as defined in claim 1.

25. (amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1) according to claim 1 by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diamino-2,2'-stilbene disulphonic acid, an amino compound capable of introducing a

group  in which R_2 , R_3 and m have their previous significance, and a

compound capable of introducing a group R_1 , in which R_1 is as defined in claim 1 has its previous significance.

32. (amended) ~~A Brightener~~ compositions according to claim 31 containing water and, in each case based on the weight of the formulation, from 3 to 25% by weight, preferably from 5 to 15% by weight of the above defined fluorescent whitening agent mixture and also 0 to 60%, preferably 5 to 50% by weight, of auxiliaries.